

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 40 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 14, 26, 27, 28, 33, 38, 39 and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated February 10, 2004.

**Claim Objections:**

Claims 28 – 37 stand objected to due to the minor informalities set forth on page 2 of the Action. This claim objection is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position is overcritical since the succeeding clause in claim 28 has already been doubly indented. In addition, each of claims 28 and 33 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to provide proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**As To The Merits:**

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejections:

claims 1-27, 31, 32, 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on **Watanabe** (of record) in view of **Sukegawa et al.** (of record) and **MASTERCARD**;

claims 28-30, 33, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on **Watanabe** in view of **Sukegawa et al.**, **Bradley et al.** (of record) and **MASTERCARD**;

claims 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Watanabe in view of Sukegawa et al., Bradley et al. and Nakamura (or record) and Official Notice; and

claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Watanabe in view of Sukegawa et al. and Official Notice.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

With regard to Applicants' argument that the applied references fail to disclose the feature concerning the dual function of the digital camera 14 to take a photo for a passport as well as to provide remote monitoring, the Examiner provides the following rebuttal position:

Examiner fails to be persuaded that the mere recitation of an intended purpose (monitoring passport applicants at a remote site) makes a known apparatus (a camera or other image input unit that inputs an image of a passport applicant, so the image can be printed on a passport) non-obvious and patentable.<sup>1</sup>

However, it is respectfully submitted that each of the independent claims 1, 2, 3, 14, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 40 have been amended to further clarify that the issuing of the passport is dependent on the remote monitoring of the applicant at the passport center. That is, the passport application will be denied based on the monitored image of the applicant. None of the applied references disclose this feature now called for in each of the independent claims 1, 2, 3, 14, 26, 27, 28, 33 and 40.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see, lines 17 – 20, page 43 of the outstanding Action.

Further, with regard to independent claims 38 and 39, such claims, as amended, now call for *a control section that controls the communication unit, the image input unit, the display unit, the data unit, and the signature input unit, communicates with the first host computer and the third host computer through the communication unit, identifies the applicant based on a result of authentication by the PIN, and carries out a procedure for the payment from the account specified by the PIN.*

It is respectfully submitted that the applied references fail to disclose or fairly suggest the specific structure for authenticating the PIN as now called for in each claims 38 and 39 for which the Examiner specifically fails to address in the prior art and instead incorrectly asserts as an intended use.

In addition, each of the independent claims 1, 2, 3, 14, 26, 27, 28, 33, 38, 39 and 40 has been amended to include the features that that the residents/first database is located in an institution other than the center which executes the examination of issuance of passport; that one of reissuing and newly issuing of the passport is selectable; and the control section/unit is configured to request certificate data stored in the residents/first database to be transmitted from the institution and to use the certificate data transmitted in reissuing or issuing the passport.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied references fail to disclose or fairly suggest these newly added features set forth in each of the independent claims 1, 2, 3, 14, 26, 27, 28, 33, 38, 39 and 40.

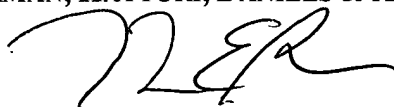
Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
Attorney Docket No.: **981391**  
Serial No.: **09/199,566**

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,  
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